

JAMES E. TOLFREE.

MAY 12, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MINOR, from the Committee on Claims, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 1212.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1212) for the relief of Paymaster James E. Tolfree, United States Navy, having considered the same, recommend its passage, and adopt as their report that previously submitted on a like bill, and appended herewith, by the Senate during the Fifty-first Congress.

[Senate Report No. 404, Fifty-first Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2775) for the relief of Paymaster James E. Tolfree, U. S. Navy, having had the same under consideration, beg leave to submit the following report:

A bill of this same character and identical in its provisions was considered by this committee during the first session of the Forty-ninth Congress, and favorably reported to the Senate on June 3, 1886. The committee are still of the same opinion, and report the bill without amendment with the recommendation that it do pass, and append hereto and make part of this report the former report made on June 30, 1886.

The bill also passed the Senate in the Fiftieth Congress.

[Senate Report No. 1421, Forty-ninth Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs submit the following letter as the committee's report on Senate bill 2399:

U. S. FLAGSHIP TRENTON,
Yokohama, Japan, March 8, 1886.

SIR: In obedience to your order of the 5th instant we have the honor to report as follows: Paymaster James E. Tolfree having been ordered to join the *Trenton* at this place, and arriving several days before the *Trenton*, had taken up his quarters at the Windsor. Upon the arrival of the *Trenton*, on the afternoon of the 7th ultimo, Paymaster Tolfree reported for duty on board, but being unable to occupy his quarters, Paymaster Lyon not having been detached, he returned to the Windsor House. At a little past 4 on the morning of the 8th ultimo the Windsor House was discovered to be on fire. Paymaster Tolfree, upon awakening, found his room full of smoke

and lighted by flames from the fire, which was in an adjoining room. Hastily throwing on a few clothes, he rushed into the hotel corridor to arouse the inmates of the other rooms.

In ignorance of the extent of the fire, stopping to take nothing but two small hand-bags from his room, he tried to render what assistance he could to clear the hotel of guests, who were dazed by the smoke. After going downstairs he went to the trunk room, where most of his luggage was stored, and endeavored to drag therefrom a box containing books and blanks, the property of the United States, as well as the pay rolls, final returns, and other papers appertaining to his last quarterly accounts as paymaster of the U. S. R. S. *Vermont*. This box was too heavy for him to handle alone; he could obtain no assistance, and was finally driven by the flames to relinquish his attempt to save the property.

The flames were so rapid in their advance that there appears to have been little time to look to the saving of anything but human life. We learn that several of the inmates of the house barely escaped with their lives. That the contents of the box above mentioned were entirely destroyed there can be no doubt, and we are of the opinion that Paymaster Tolfree should be held free from blame for their loss, both as to their being at the hotel and as to his failure to save them from the flames.

The following is a list of the public property destroyed, so far as can be ascertained from Paymaster Tolfree:

One book containing fifty sets blank bills of exchange, with accompanying letters of advice, blanks, etc.

Pay officers' pay rolls, books, blanks, etc. Book containing complete set of Navy Department circulars, book of instructions, pay tables, naval registers, etc. Rough pay rolls, final returns, etc., appertaining to accounts of R. S. *Vermont* and U. S. S. *Dispatch*.

Paymaster Tolfree was accompanied by his clerk, Mr. Charles Blake, who had also reported for duty on board the *Trenton*, and who had under his charge a few books and pamphlets belonging to the United States, which were destroyed. The entire outfits of Paymaster Tolfree and Pay Clerk Blake for three years were stored at the hotel and were destroyed.

Very respectfully,

ASA WALKER,
Lieutenant, U. S. N.

WM. T. SWINBURNE,
Lieutenant, U. S. N.

THEO. B. M. MASON,
Lieutenant, U. S. N.

Rear-Admiral JOHN LEE DAVIS, U. S. N.,
Commanding U. S. Naval Force on Asiatic Station.

Approved.

JOHN LEE DAVIS, U. S. N.,
Commanding U. S. Naval Force on Asiatic Station.

U. S. FLAGSHIP TRENTON (2d rate),
Yokohama, Japan, March 3, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that after having, in obedience to orders from the Navy Department, reported to you for duty on the arrival of the *Trenton* from Nagasaki Sunday afternoon, February 7, 1886, I returned for the night to the Windsor House, where my luggage was stored, there being no quarters for me on board until Paymaster Lyon could transfer accounts.

That night, a few minutes after 4 o'clock, the hotel was found to be on fire. The wind was blowing in such a way at the time as to cause the flames to speedily envelop the building, leaving the occupants only opportunity to escape and giving them little chance to save property.

The hotel building was completely obliterated and, in addition to losing my entire outfit provided for a three years' cruise, I had the misfortune to lose a quantity of Government books and blanks, including one book containing fifty sets blank bills of exchange intended for use on this station, besides the pay rolls, final returns, etc., appertaining to my last quarterly accounts of the U. S. R. S. *Vermont*.

The above-mentioned books, blanks, returns, etc., were packed together in one large chest, which I endeavored to drag out of the burning building but, from its weight, was unable to do so.

Accompanying me in the hotel was Charles Blake, pay clerk, U. S. Navy, who had reported with me for duty the day before, and who also lost his entire outfit, saving only the one suit in which he escaped from the building.

In view of these facts I deem it my duty to ask that proper steps may be taken to

relieve me from the responsibility for these serious losses, and also to account for my being out of the ship after having reported for duty under your command.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES E. TOLFREE,
Paymaster, U. S. Navy.

Rear-Admiral JOHN LEE DAVIS, U. S. N.,
Commanding U. S. Naval Force on Asiatic Station.

PAYMASTER'S OFFICE, U. S. FLAGSHIP TRENTON (2d rate),
Yokohama, Japan, March 11, 1886.

A list of uniform equipment, clothing, and outfit for three years' cruise belonging to James E. Tolfree, paymaster, United States Navy, and consumed in the burning of the Windsor Hotel, at Yokohama, Japan, on the night of February 7, 1886, at about 4 o'clock a. m.

1 cocked hat (Starkey's)	\$35.00
2 caps	14.00
1 helmet	5.00
1 straw hat	3.00
1 heavy overcoat, uniform	65.00
1 light coat, uniform	50.00
1 waterproof coat	25.00
1 frock coat, uniform	85.00
2 vests, uniform	18.00
3 pants, uniform	45.00
2 blue cloth blouses	90.00
2 blue flannel blouses	50.00
2 blue flannel pants	18.00
3 suits white flannel	90.00
6 suits white duck	180.00
1 full-dress coat, uniform	125.00
1 full-dress pants, uniform	25.00
1 pair epaulets (Starkey's)	80.00
1 pair epaulets, second best	50.00
1 full-dress belt (Starkey's)	16.00
1 sword	25.00
1 sword knot	8.00
1 social-intercourse coat	80.00
1 social-intercourse vest	15.00
1 dozen pairs white gloves	12.00
1/2 dozen black ties	6.00
1 dozen pair black silk stockings	24.00
7 pairs sheets	21.00
10 pillowcases	10.00
1 pair blankets	10.00
1 eider-down quilt (silk)	60.00
7 dozen towels	105.00
2 dozen napkins	36.00
1 Prince Albert coat, vest and pants	126.00
1 cutaway coat, vest and pants	110.00
1 business coat, vest and pants	90.00
1 thin coat, vest and pants	85.00
1 blue flannel coat, vest and pants	60.00
1 evening coat, vest and pants (dress)	120.00
6 white vests	30.00
3 dozen white ties	7.50
1 white cloth driving coat	85.00
1 dark-green body overcoat	110.00
1 diagonal spring overcoat	105.00
1 silk hat (Dunlap)	8.00
1 pot hat (Knox)	6.00
1 sole-leather hat box	15.00
5 dozen white shirts	210.00
4 suits underclothing (heavy)	36.00
4 suits underclothing (thin)	24.00
4 suits underclothing (summer)	20.00
1 sack coat, vest and pants	75.00
5 dozen handkerchiefs	60.00

$\frac{1}{2}$ dozen silk neckties.....	\$9.00
1 heavy silk neckcloth	9.00
10 pairs shoes.....	120.00
1 pair boots (heavy).....	15.00
2 pairs overshoes.....	3.00
2 dozen pairs dogskin gloves.....	24.00
5 dozen socks.....	60.00
5 pairs suspenders.....	7.50
1 sole-leather trunk.....	45.00
5 trunks.....	75.00
1 alligator-skin sack.....	22.00
1 Gladstone bag.....	25.00
1 aluminum field glass.....	80.00
1 banjo (nickel plated).....	55.00
1 revolver (pearl handle, silver mounted).....	35.00
1 pair rapiers.....	45.00
1 toilet mirror (beveled edge, mounted in silver).....	15.00
1 cologne bottle (silver mounted, cut glass).....	25.00
1 breech-loading 12-bore bird gun, case, and fittings.....	150.00
1 sole-leather cartridge case.....	25.00
1 pair diamond sleeve buttons.....	150.00
1 diamond scarf pin (horseshoe).....	150.00
1 set studs and buttons.....	45.00
1 cameo scarf pin.....	35.00
1 antique scarf pin.....	28.00
2 umbrellas (Martin's).....	20.00
3 walking sticks (silver mounted).....	30.00
2 dozen eyeglasses.....	72.00
1 dressing case.....	50.00
1 ivory shoe and button hook combined (silver mounted).....	15.00
1 driving whip (jointed).....	15.00
1 billiard cue (jointed).....	10.00
1 lawn-tennis racket.....	7.00
2 lawn-tennis suits.....	28.00
1 lawn-tennis hat.....	3.50
2 pairs lawn-tennis shoes.....	10.00
1 set Shakespeare, bound in russia, 13 volumes.....	25.00
1 volume Shakespeare.....	10.00
1 McCauley Works, complete.....	60.00
25 volumes French books.....	25.00
1 French dictionary.....	7.50
1 Italian dictionary.....	4.50
An assortment of standard books and poems.....	50.00

Total amount..... 4,552.50

I hereby solemnly swear the foregoing statement is, to the best of my knowledge, correct and true.

JAMES E. TOLFREE,
Paymaster, U. S. N.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 24th day of May, 1887.

[SEAL.]

G. H. SCIDMORE,
United States Vice-Consul-General, Kanagawa, Japan.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, OFFICE JUDGE-ADVOCATE-GENERAL,
Washington, June 19, 1890.

DEAR SIR: I received your letter of the 16th instant, relating to Senate bills Nos. 2775 and 2776, for the relief of Paymaster James E. Tolfree and Pay Clerk Charles Blake, U. S. N., on account of the loss of their personal effects by fire in a hotel at Yokohama, Japan, in February, 1886, now under consideration in the House of Representatives, and requesting copies of the schedules supposed to have been filed in this Department showing the extent of the losses so incurred.

In reply I have the honor to state that I have caused an examination to be made of the Department files, and also of those in the office of the Fourth Auditor, for the information required, but without success. Upon reference to the Department's letter of June 4, 1886, to the chairman of the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs con-

cerning the loss of the public and private property in charge of the above-named officers at the time mentioned, I find that it was therein stated that no schedules of their private property had been received. It would appear, therefore, that the schedules, or statements, of the value of the articles of private property lost were furnished the committee by the claimants themselves when the original bills for their relief were prepared.

I have written to Paymaster Tolfree, who was an old mess mate of mine, informing him of your request and suggesting that he send to you such information as he may be able to furnish in the matter.

Very truly, yours,

WM. B. REMEY,
Judge-Advocate-General.

Hon. EUGENE HALE, *United States Senate.*

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